SIDE GALLERY

GEORGE NAKASHIMA



Bar Stool Model “Mira”
Manufactured by Sakura Seisakusho
Japan, circa 1970s
Wood

Measurements
50,2 × 44,5 cm
19,75 × 17,5 in
Seat height: 43,2–63,5 cm / 17–25 in

Details
Signed “Nakashima” with Japanese characters
Manufacturer’s stamp “SAKURA MADE IN JAPAN”

Literature
Nakashima, M. (2003). Nature, form, & spirit: The life and legacy of George Nakashima. Harry N. Abrams.
Nakashima, G. (1981). The soul of a tree: A woodworker’s reflections. Kodansha International.
House & Home. (1952, March). Article on George Nakashima.

Provenance
Private Collection, Japan

About
The Mira Bar Stool reflects George Nakashima’s interpretation of traditional Shaker furniture, combining structural simplicity with refined craftsmanship. Originally designed around 1950 for his daughter Mira, it reinterprets the spindle-back chair through a distinctive three-legged construction. Its elevated seat, curved backrest, slender wooden spindles and integrated footrest demonstrate Nakashima’s sensitivity to proportion, material and ergonomics. Manufactured in Japan by Sakura Seisakusho, the stool reflects his collaboration with Japanese craftsmen and their meticulous approach to traditional woodworking. The manufacturer’s stamp, signature and identifying numbers on the underside provide documentation of its production.

Biography
George Nakashima (1905–1990) was an influential woodworker and furniture designer known for his philosophical approach to craftsmanship and natural materials. Born in Washington to Japanese immigrant parents, he studied architecture before travelling through Europe and Asia. During the 1930s, he worked in Japan with architect Antonin Raymond, where he developed a deep understanding of Japanese architecture and traditional woodworking techniques.
After returning to the United States, Nakashima established his workshop in New Hope, Pennsylvania, developing a distinctive style characterized by solid wood construction, exposed joinery and the preservation of natural grain and edges. His work combined modernist principles with traditional craftsmanship, emphasizing the inherent beauty of wood. Through international collaborations, including projects in India, he extended his design philosophy across cultural contexts. Today, his work is celebrated for its synthesis of modern design, artisanal skill and respect for nature.

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